



TENNESSEE WEEKLY  
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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CORN PLANTING ADVANCES DESPITE SHOWERS

Producers made good progress with most fieldwork last week, especially planting corn, despite scattered showers due to several fronts passing through the State. Eighty percent of the Tennessee’s corn acreage had been planted by week’s end with over half emerged. Planting of this year’s corn crop continues to exceed the previous year and the 5-year average. Cotton planting advanced 6 percentage points ahead of the previous week, behind last year but in line with normal. Soybean planting was underway with 2 percent of the State’s acreage planted. Nearly all of the winter wheat crop has reached the jointing stage, slightly behind last year and normal. The crop was rated in mostly good condition with only a few reports of insect and disease pressure. There were reports of hail damage to wheat, strawberries, and tomatoes last week in West Tennessee. Nursery growers were wrapping up digging and shipping of plants. Other agricultural field activities taking place last week were harvesting hay and spraying fields to control insects, weeds, and diseases. Temperatures averaged below normal for the week, while rainfall amounts varied across the region. There were 4 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 27, 2003					CONDITION: On April 25, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Winter Wheat - Jointed	94	87	95	98	Winter Wheat	0	5	20	60	15
Winter Wheat - Headed	32	13	38	47	Pastures	0	2	19	64	15
Corn - Planted	80	70	77	70	Strawberries	0	3	25	64	8
Corn - Emerged	51	30	46	38						
Cotton - Planted	7	1	14	8						
Soybeans - Planted	2	N/A	4	3						
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	90	82	85	94						
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	90	80	92	98						

**WHEAT:** Although three-fourths of wheat crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition, disease pressure, especially powdery mildew, has become noticeable in some fields. Aphids and cereal leaf beetles have also been reported. Producers continued to apply fungicides and insecticides. As of Sunday, 94 percent of the crop had jointed and 32 percent had headed.

**CORN:** Corn planting, at 80 percent completed, continues to out pace a year earlier and the 5-year average. Over 50 percent of the crop had emerged by week’s end. Some growers were busy spraying fields for aphids and beetles.

**COTTON:** Currently, 7 percent of the State’s cotton acreage has been planted. Producers are awaiting drier conditions to continue with planting this year’s crop, as rain the latter part of last week slowed field activities.

**SOYBEANS:** Soybean planting has begun on a limited basis with 2 percent of the acreage planted. Warmer temperatures should allow growers to make good progress in the upcoming weeks.

**FRUIT:** Ninety percent of the State’s apple and peach crops have reached the blooming or beyond stage, both lagging behind the 5-year average. Cool, damp conditions hindered the fruit crops development this past week.

**PASTURES:** Pastures continued to be rated in mostly good condition. A few areas have begun to harvest hay. Alfalfa weevils are showing up in some fields and farmers are spraying as needed.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 04/27/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 04/27/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	04/27/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	80	41	59	-6	2.30	4	19.70	+0.81	85	-10
Tri-City_RGNL_A	75	35	57	+0	0.77	4	17.93	+4.59	35	+18
Brownsville_TN	80	44	61	-3	0.96	3	15.35	-3.26	92	+45
Chattanooga/Lov	76	42	60	-2	1.58	4	19.79	+0.17	87	+33
Clarksville_Sew	78	39	59	-2	1.23	4	13.76	-3.93	90	+32
Cookeville	79	36	57	-2	1.18	2	22.46	+3.26	57	+49
Covington	78	42	59	-5	1.63	4	15.46	-3.16	75	+3
Crossville_AP	71	36	56	-2	1.05	3	21.78	+2.42	59	+39
Dickson_AG	75	35	57	-5	1.51	4	16.48	-2.05	70	+9
Dover_1W	77	37	57	-4	0.90	1	16.71	-1.63	62	+23
Dyersburg	79	41	59	-5	2.36	3	13.63	-3.40	88	+0
Erwin_1W	78	36	57	+2	0.82	4	16.08	+0.98	32	-4
Huntingdon_Wate	76	41	59	-3	1.53	4	16.88	-1.09	79	+31
Jackson_AG	79	41	59	-4	0.64	3	13.04	-4.80	84	+16
Kingston_AG	75	37	58	-2	1.27	3	20.52	+0.42	46	+22
Knoxville_AP	76	42	60	+1	0.63	3	19.94	+3.26	65	+30
Lewisburg	80	32	56	-4	0.94	3	16.44	-2.31	67	+28
Lexington_TN	79	39	58	-4	1.41	4	16.37	-0.96	67	+56
Linden	78	37	58	-3	1.82	4	21.14	+1.79	66	+17
Martin	80	38	57	-5	1.45	4	14.88	-2.92	72	+17
Mc_Minnville_Tn	75	37	59	-3	0.29	3	17.10	-1.33	88	+12
Memphis_AG	79	45	60	-6	1.96	4	15.53	-2.88	87	-27
Milan	79	40	59	-3	1.68	4	16.87	-1.22	83	+27
Murfreesboro_5N	78	38	58	-3	0.78	3	17.62	-0.16	70	-32
Nashville_Metro	79	41	59	-3	0.99	3	17.43	+1.28	92	+29
Newcomb	80	33	57	+2	0.69	3	20.35	+2.47	52	+42
Oneida	77	36	57	+1	0.85	4	19.36	+1.48	42	-19
Pikeville	78	38	60	+0	0.54	4	19.98	+0.85	71	+29
Portland_TN	79	38	57	-3	1.15	3	16.72	-0.49	57	+24
Pulaski_Water_P	75	38	57	-7	1.34	3	22.07	+2.65	73	+1
Savannah_6SW	75	38	57	-8	1.82	4	19.94	-0.38	56	+5
Sparta_TN	77	36	60	+1	1.87	5	20.91	+2.23	84	+55
Springfield	80	35	57	-3	0.78	3	14.40	-2.33	67	+34
Springhill	82	37	58	-3	1.52	3	20.47	+1.29	86	+48
Union_City	80	39	58	-4	1.74	4	16.92	-0.59	56	+7
Waynesboro_TN	77	35	57	-4	2.05	5	21.37	+0.79	65	+8

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).    GDD = Growing Degree Days.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.    Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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